

Senator John Edwards

A Record of Accomplishment

Working for North Carolina and One America

Since North Carolina voters elected John Edwards to the U.S. Senate in 1998, he has championed issues that make a difference in the everyday lives of families in North Carolina and across America. He worked to provide quality health care and steered to Senate passage his Patient Protection Act. He fought for middle-class tax cuts to help families save and get ahead. And he worked to improve our schools, improve teacher pay, and expand after-school programs.

He also stood up to big polluters and pressed for cleaner skies from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to congested metropolitan areas like Charlotte, the Triad and the Research Triangle.

He made the case for fiscal discipline to cut the deficit in half to save Social Security and Medicare, and he cosponsored legislation to reform the way campaigns are financed.

A member of the Select Committee on Intelligence, Senator Edwards recognized the threat from terrorism long before September 11, 2001.

He was a leader in fighting bioterrorism, and took on powerful special interests to safeguard nuclear power plants and chemical plants in North Carolina and elsewhere.

He was one of the first to call for fundamental reforms in the way our intelligence agencies are organized to catch terrorists here at home and around the world, and he was one of the first to travel to Afghanistan to visit our troops after they defeated the Taliban.

Representing a state that is home to major military installations, he has been active in strengthening the military and improving the lives of men and women in uniform and their families. He proposed extended tax exemptions for military personnel in combat zones and sought to provide National Guard families with financial help paying for child care and college loans.

Senator Edwards also supported mainstream judicial nominees. He broke a decades-long impasse by working with Republicans to confirm a North Carolinian nominated to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. As a result of his work, North Carolina is now represented by Judge Allyson Duncan of Raleigh, the first African American woman on the appeals court.

Putting top priority on North Carolina, he secured resources for projects ranging for emergency responders and community colleges to mass transit development, airport improvements, and a major initiative to boost the state's economy by deepening the Wilmington Harbor.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Terrorism and National Security

Edwards Key Anti-Terrorism Legislation That Became Law As a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Senator Edwards has been a leader on national security issues, focusing on homeland security, intelligence reform, military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and U.S.-European relations. *The Durham Herald Sun* noted: “List just a few of the nation's security and safety problems tackled on Capitol Hill since the Sept. 11 attacks, and Edwards and his pen are probably not far from them.” [Herald Sun, 11/26/01]

- **The Biological and Chemical Weapons Preparedness Act** The bill, introduced by John Edwards with Chuck Hagel (R-NE), established a coordinated national plan for responding to biological and chemical weapons attacks and directs states to develop plans for dealing with such attacks. Major provisions of this bill were passed by the Senate in the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act. [S. 1486]
- **The Airport and Seaport Terrorism Prevention Act** This legislation specified the use of new identification technologies to screen airport employees. Parts of Edwards’ proposal were passed by the Senate and signed into law by the president.
- **The Cyberterrorism Preparedness Act and the Cybersecurity Research and Education Act** These bills were designed to strengthen our nation’s preparedness and ability to ward off a cyber attack by terrorists. Parts of Senator Edwards’ cyberterrorism bill were passed by the Senate and signed into law. Senator Edwards also introduced a third bill on cybersecurity, to make the government's computer systems less vulnerable to assaults from high-tech hackers, hostile foreign governments and cyber terrorists.
- **The Name Matching for Enforcement and Security Act** He introduced legislation to improve the capacity of anti-terrorist watch lists and databases to match variants of foreign names. This legislation was incorporated into the Border Security Act of 2003.

Part of Anti-Terrorism Working Group Through his work on the Intelligence and Judiciary committees, Senator Edwards played a key role in the legislative effort to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks against the United States. In the summer of 2001, he joined a group of senators who focused on the growing terrorist threat and considered legislative responses. Many of the issues first discussed at these working group sessions – such as the mandatory sharing of intelligence information between CIA, FBI and other intelligence agencies, and the training of federal state and local law enforcement officers to recognize and communicate critical intelligence information – were later implemented in legislation passed after September 11, 2001.

Met with Leaders Around the Globe As a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Senator Edwards traveled throughout the Middle East, South Asia, the Persian Gulf, Central Asia, and Europe. During these official trips, he met with foreign leaders and diplomats, senior U.S. military commanders, U.S. intelligence officials, and prominent regional policy experts. Through his Intelligence Committee travels, he developed first-hand knowledge of important diplomatic challenges, ongoing U.S. military operations, U.S. intelligence activities, and relations with key allies and international organizations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

- **Middle East** He met Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon; Former Israeli Prime Minister and then Foreign Minister Shimon Peres; the leader of Mossad, Ephraim Helevy; Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher, and King Abdullah of Jordan.

- **Central Asia** Met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai; Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf; Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit; The Sultan of Oman, His Majesty Qaboos Bin Said.; Uzbekistan President Islom Karimov, Tajikistan President Imomali Rakhmonov, and the Secretary General of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.
- **Europe** Met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, UK Defense Minister Geoff Hoon; Chief of Staff to Prime Minister Jonathan Powell; UK National Security Adviser David Manning; UK British Security Service chief Eliza Manningham-Buller; NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson; European Union High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana; NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, General Joe Ralston; NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, and NATO Deputy Military Commander General Baptiste.

Member of Joint Committee Investigating September 11th Attacks Senator Edwards was a member of the joint House and Senate panel that investigated the September 11th attacks. He developed a particular expertise on the shortcomings of the FBI's intelligence-gathering efforts. He consulted and developed relationships with a broad range of experts specializing in intelligence, national security policy, law enforcement and civil liberties, as well as receiving detailed private briefings from the FBI Director and the Director of the British Security Service (or MI5) in London. Senator Edwards was also a lead questioner at a public hearing (September 24, 2002) on issues relating to the failures of the FBI to prevent the attacks. During the final considerations of the panel's recommendations, the committee adopted an Edwards Amendment urging the Congress to consider establishing a new agency to be responsible for homeland intelligence.

- **Edwards Introduced Bill to Create New Homeland Intelligence Agency** Following the Congressional inquiry, Senator Edwards introduced "The Foreign Intelligence Collection Improvement Act of 2003", a proposal to reform the U.S. intelligence community by placing the responsibility for domestic intelligence in a new Homeland Intelligence Agency. This new agency would have no law enforcement powers and would provide greater protections for civil liberties.

Working to Improve Our Military As a Senator from North Carolina, Edwards represents Fort Bragg, the world's largest Army installation complex as well as the headquarters of the Marine Corps Antiterrorism Task Force. Edwards has been active in the effort to improve the quality of life for all soldiers.

Help for Military Families After a 1999 visit to Fort Bragg, he introduced legislation (S. 1424, 106th) to extend tax exemptions for military personnel in combat zones to members of the armed forces serving in other hostile areas designated by the Defense Department. The legislation grew out of meetings with the spouses of soldiers deployed in Operation Allied Force, who asked why federal tax laws treated pay for duty in the Balkans combat zone differently than pay for other hazardous missions. Edwards continued his efforts to help military families as they deal with the stress of extended deployments and the ongoing war against terrorism. More than 5,100 North Carolina members of the National Guard and Reserve have been called to active duty in Iraq and elsewhere. Senator Edwards sponsored a measure to suspend interest on their student loans and expand day-care services for their children [149 Cong. Rec. S 13909, 149 Cong. Rec. S 14804, referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, 4/10/03]

Post Conflict Planning Legislation Senator Edwards also played a leading role in improving America's ability to ensure that "post-conflict" states like Afghanistan and Iraq can address

security challenges, humanitarian needs, and political development. In 2003, he introduced the bipartisan “Winning the Peace Act,” legislation that outlined major reforms to enhance the U.S. government’s capacity to conduct post-conflict reconstruction. This legislation was based on work by the Commission on Post-Conflict Reconstruction, a high-level panel of military, civilian, diplomatic and political experts convened in 2002 by the Association of the U.S. Army and the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Fighting For Affordable Quality Health Care

Senator Edwards has been a leader in the Senate on health care issues. From the Patient Protection Act to prescription drug benefits, he fought for affordable, quality health care.

- **Edwards Led Fight for Patient Rights** A cornerstone of his campaign for Senate was his support for legislation that would guarantee that people in managed-care plans and other insurance plans get the health care they pay for. Senator Edwards followed up on his campaign promise with the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act, cosponsored by Senators McCain and Kennedy. It passed the Senate 59 to 36 in 2001, but was bottled up in the House.
- **Lower Prescription Drug Costs.** In 2002, Edwards coauthored legislation that would have lowered prices for prescription drugs. The Senate overwhelmingly passed his legislation that would have closed loopholes in drug patent laws that brand-name pharmaceutical companies have used to keep lower-cost generic drugs off the market. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that by lowering hurdles for generic drugs to reach the market, the legislation would save American consumers more than \$60 billion on prescription medicine over the next decade.
- **Expanded Funding For Research Into Causes of Mental Retardation.** In 2000, Congress passed the Children's Health Act of 2000, which included major provisions of the Fragile X Research Breakthrough Act introduced by Senator Edwards. Fragile X is a genetic defect that causes an underproduction of a protein critical for mental development. It is the most common inherited cause of mental retardation. His legislation directed an expansion of research on Fragile X, and authorized the development of coordinated research centers to study the syndrome that causes mental retardation.
- **Improve Health Care and Availability For Our Nation's Military and Veterans** In 1999, the Senate approved legislation he cosponsored to improve Tricare, the health care program for 6.6 million military service members, their families, and retirees. The Military Health Care Improvement Amendment made it easier for individuals to make doctor appointments; improve both the rate and speed of reimbursements for physicians, pharmacists and other health care providers; ensure that health care benefits stay in place when service members and transferred to another base, and guarantee that military health insurance is comparable to coverage available to other federal workers.
- **Improve Health Care For Survivors of Sexual or Domestic Violence** In 2002, Edwards introduced three bills to improve care for women who are survivors of sexual or domestic violence. Cosponsored by Senator Patty Murray of Washington, the Women in Trauma Act and its companion bill, the Expanding Research for Women in Trauma Act, would focus new federal efforts on researching and preventing abuse and improving counseling services for women affected by it. The Counseling in Shelters Act would focus new federal efforts on

improving mental health and substance abuse services for women affected by trauma. The companion legislation would provide funding for mental health and substance abuse counselors at battered women's shelters and other community-based service providers who serve victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Working for a Stronger Economy

Senator Edwards supported common-sense efforts to jump-start the economy, provide tax relief for Americans who need it and help North Carolina and other states that experienced budget shortfalls.

- **Targeting Tax Cuts to Working Families** He voted against tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefited the wealthy and drove up deficits. He sought to provide more benefits to middle and lower-income families, by voting to expand the 15 percent tax bracket while decreasing the amount of tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers. He also fought the size of the tax cut when other priorities were being shortchanged. He voted to stop tax cuts until Head Start and Pell Grants were adequately funded.
- **Providing Additional Funding for States** Senator Edwards tried to help states experiencing their own budget crises aggravated by recession and September 11. He introduced legislation to provide states with \$50 billion in fiscal relief. He voted to give states an additional \$5.5 billion to fund health insurance for unemployed workers and to increase the federal share for Medicaid in each state.
- **Rebuilding Consumer Confidence by Cracking Down on Fraud** He supported passage of the corporate accountability bill after scandals at Enron and other corporations. He authored an amendment, which became law over the objection of the American Bar Association, to require company lawyers to report corporate wrongdoing up the corporate chain of command. As a result of his amendment, co-authored by Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Jon Corzine (D-NJ), the Securities and Exchange Commission for the first time has explicit authority to discipline lawyers for unethical conduct. Edwards also urged Congress to enact a right-to-know rule on CEO pay.

Protecting the Environment

- **Preserving Clean Air Laws and Fighting the Administration's Roll Back of the Clean Air Act** Senator Edwards led the fight against increased air pollution from factories with the administration's rollback of the Clean Air Act. The Environmental Protection Agency moved to change "New Source Review" provisions of the Clean Air Act to make it much easier for old factories and power plants to emit more pollution without adding state-of-the-art clean-air technology. He chaired a Senate hearing to expose the new rule's real effects, during which former EPA Administrator Carol Browner said the rules would "allow the air to become dirtier." Edwards also led a bipartisan group of 44 Senators in a letter urging the administration to postpone their planned changes and "conduct a rigorous analysis of the air pollution and public health impacts of the proposed rule changes." An amendment by Senator Edwards that would have required the EPA to temporarily halt the implementation of its rollbacks to the Clean Air Act while an independent analysis was conducted received broad bipartisan support.

- **Reducing Acid Rain, Toxic Contamination, Global Warming.** Senator Edwards cosponsored the Clean Power Act of 2002, which would drastically reduce power plant emissions of four major pollutants which cause smog, acid rain, mercury contamination and global warming. The bill, authored by independent Senator Jim Jeffords, would tighten controls on sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury. It would also for the first time regulate the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, the prime suspect causing global warming. This legislation was much stronger in cracking down on harmful emissions to protect the environment and the health of Americans than the Bush administration's "Clear Skies Initiative."
- **Fighting to Protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge From Exploration and Drilling** Senator Edwards voted against leasing land in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil exploration and production. In addition to environmental impacts, drilling for oil in the Arctic Refuge will do little to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, recoverable oil under the Arctic Refuge would only provide a few months of oil for the U.S. and wouldn't be accessible for years to come.

Improving Our Schools

- **Edwards Fought To Make National Education Reform Reflect Successes Achieved in North Carolina.** He made sure education reforms enacted by Congress included a proposal that built on the successes North Carolina achieved in education reform. The legislation included specially-trained Assistance Teams composed of experienced educators and administrators dedicated to turning around schools once they are designated low performing--designed after the implementation of successful Assistance Teams in North Carolina.
- **Edwards Proposed a High School Community Corps.** He proposed a new national service initiative for high school students. Patterned after successful programs in North Carolina, his proposal would establish a nationwide competitive grant program to provide assistance to states or local school districts that require a community service commitment as a condition for high school graduation.

A Champion For North Carolina

Assisted North Carolina's Recovery from Hurricanes In the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd, Senator Edwards marshaled support for federal disaster-relief funding. He secured aid not only for recovery but also for better floodplain maps so that those who needed flood insurance would have it in the future. More recently, after Hurricanes Frances and Ivan, Senator Edwards called on the federal government to approve Governor Easley's request for a federal disaster declaration and worked to provide resources to parts of the North Carolina that were damaged. [146 Cong. Rec. S 8623; News and Observer (Raleigh), 9/28/2002; Letters to President Bush, 9/9/2004, 9/17/2004]

Secured Federal Funding Senator Edwards helped secure more than \$345 million in federal grants for North Carolinians. Communities throughout the state were able to build hospitals, hire fire fighters, and fix schools.

Helping Constituents Senator Edwards and his office handled more than 23,000 cases for constituents in North Carolina, helping secure assistance from government agencies like the Veterans Administration and the Social Security Administration.

Kept in Touch with Constituents Senator Edwards visited all 100 counties in North Carolina. He also held town hall meetings with North Carolinians visiting Washington each week when the Senate was in session.

Sponsored Blue Ridge Mountains National Heritage Area Senator Edwards introduced legislation to make the Blue Ridge Mountains a national heritage area and earmarked \$10 million to promote historic preservation in the mountains, protect natural and cultural resources, and revitalize the North Carolina economy. The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area includes Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey counties. [S. 2937, 107th Congress]

Funded Harbors, Dams and Waterways Senator Edwards supported increased funding for harbors, dams and waterways in North Carolina. He fought for Wilmington Harbor to be deepened and widened so that shippers using the port have better access.

Supported Groundbreaking Research at North Carolina Universities He helped secure millions of dollars for important scientific research at North Carolina universities.

Equipped First Responders He introduced legislation to give local officials access to classified intelligence to better respond to terrorist threats. [S.266] In 2002, he proposed the Homeland Protection & Tax Hike Prevention Act of 2003, which included a \$5 billion investment for equipping and training first responders. [149 Cong. Rec. S 3254.] He also wrote The Emergency Warning Act that passed the Senate to improve emergency warning systems to provide first responders with up-to-the-minute information about terrorist threats. [149 Cong. Rec. S 153]

Strengthened Airport Security In response to the events of September 11, the Senate passed provisions authored by Senator Edwards to increase safety at North Carolina's airports. [S.1429] Consequently, Charlotte Douglas International, Raleigh-Durham International, Piedmont-Triad International and other airports across the country have enhanced detection and security training.

Fought for Fair Trade North Carolinians working in many of the state's most important industries, such as textiles and furniture, are struggling because of unfair trade practices. Senator Edwards spearheaded efforts to level the playing field. He fought for trade agreements that protect North Carolina jobs and more resources to help individuals and communities recover from trade-related plant closings. Current tax laws give corporations incentives to move jobs abroad. Senator Edwards called for a 10% tax cut for U.S. manufacturers that keep jobs in this country rather than moving them overseas. He also fought to crack down on countries that violate trade agreements and fail to give American companies open access to their markets. Numerous publications have applauded Senator Edwards' efforts, noting that he "has been working hard to soften the blows to the textile industry, correctly emphasizing the health of the worker over the health of the manufacturer." [Winston-Salem Journal, 8/1/2003]

Aid for Pillowtex Workers When the Pillowtex Corp. closed, costing thousands of North Carolina textile workers their jobs, Senator Edwards called on the Labor Department to provide millions of dollars in emergency grants to help displaced workers find health insurance and get job re-training. Members of his Senate staff spent several weeks in Kannapolis, meeting with former Pillowtex employees and advising them on available assistance. [148 Cong. Rec. S 54346]

Help for Farmers and Rural Economy He fought for years for assistance for tobacco farmers that was finally approved this year. He backed an initiative to bring affordable broadband

Internet access to rural communities. He introduced legislation that will help bring improved health care to the 1.7 million North Carolinians that live in rural areas. Telehealth, a high tech audio and video program, would help link doctors to patients, even if they are physically miles away from one another. East Carolina University is one of our nation's foremost leaders in telemedicine technology, and Senator Edwards has worked closely with the medical school in Greenville to support and promote its program. [150 Cong. Rec. S 4225; currently in Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pension (4/21/2004)]

Backed Lumbee Recognition Senator Edwards supported full federal recognition for the Lumbee tribe to spur economic development in Robeson County, which has lost thousands of manufacturing jobs. [149 Cong. Rec. S 13660]

Help For Heating Bills Senator Edwards called for a \$500 energy tax credit to help families cope with higher energy costs, and he fought Bush administration cuts in the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps more than 160,000 people in North Carolina pay their heating bills each year. [148 Cong. Rec. S 10350]

Helped Modernize Banking Senator Edwards pushed for a doubling of funds to Community Development Financial Institutions that serve areas overlooked by most banks. He also helped overhaul Depression-era banking laws. The changes have improved options for consumers, enhanced privacy and helped North Carolina banks like Bank of America and Wachovia to compete internationally.

Broke Judicial Logjam Senator Edwards fought to end a 12-year stalemate over appeals court nominees. As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, he supported the nomination of Allyson K. Duncan to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Duncan was the first North Carolinian to join the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 23 years. She also was the first North Carolinian woman and the first African American woman to serve on that bench. Senator Edwards' work with Senator Elizabeth Dole on the Duncan nomination was heralded a "bipartisan success." [Charlotte Observer, 2/2/2003, 6/1/2003; News & Record (Greensboro), 7/21/2003; 149 Cong. Rec. S 9558] He also was instrumental in the confirmation of two federal district court judges in North Carolina, Brent McKnight and Louise Wood Flanagan.